

The Channel Islands have been called the "Galapagos of North America" and I believe that this is an accurate description of the extraordinary natural resources that exist on the islands. Each of the islands has a unique ecosystem, which is home to numerous indigenous species.

The island fox is one of these distinct species. It is found only on the Channel Islands and is a distant relative of the gray fox. These playful animals have spent most of the last 10,000 years thriving at the top of the island food chain. However in recent years they have become threatened due to a variety of circumstances.

However I am happy to report that extraordinary efforts are being made to reverse this trend towards extinction. In the last month the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed listing the Island Fox as an endangered species. That act was an important step forward in the work to reestablish this species.

Finally, I would like to recognize the inspirational efforts of the fifth grade students at Mound Elementary School in Ventura. They have chosen the preservation of the Island Fox as their G.A.T.E. project, and have formed their own organization, "Save Our Species," which is an affiliated educational unit of Jane Goodall's "Roots and Shoots" organization. I believe that we should all follow the example set by these devoted young people and work together to ensure the Island Fox population returns to its historic levels.

SAFETY AND SYSTEM STABILIZATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2001

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Air Transportation System Stabilization Act. This is far from an ideal bill, because it does not address the crisis faced by tens of thousands of air travel industry workers who have also been devastated by the terrorist acts of September 11. But as we know, America is in crisis and these are not ideal times.

The fact is that our aviation industry is a vital part of a strong and robust economy and it is facing unique and dire consequences as a result of the recent brutal terrorist attacks on our nation. It is therefore important that Congress take action now to stave off the financial calamity facing this industry and the resulting impact it could have on the entire nation.

This bill, however, must only be the first step. To succeed in strengthening our economy, it is essential that we address the needs of related businesses, and America's hard working men and women, who have also been devastated by the tragic events of September 11. Just as we are helping our ailing aviation industry today, we must also help the tens of thousands of workers affected by the economic impact of this national tragedy.

We must provide assistance to workers who have lost or will lose their jobs because of the crisis—assistance such as worker retraining programs, health insurance and unemployment insurance.

It is only because Congressional leaders have committed to quickly bring forth legisla-

tion to address the needs of workers that I will support this legislation. And I challenge our leaders to keep their word.

Mr. Speaker, America's workers deserve the same quick attention we are providing the aviation industry today. We must answer this moral call and come to their aid.

WILLIAM BANACH HONORED AS
OUTSTANDING AMERICAN OF
POLISH DESCENT

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2001

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, October 12, 2001 William Banach will be honored as the Outstanding American of Polish Decent at the Milwaukee Society's Pulaski Day Banquet.

This annual event celebrates the life and achievements of local individuals who embody the spirit of Casimir Pulaski. Appointed a brigadier general by George Washington, Pulaski was engaged in a number of major Revolutionary War battles. He was killed in the fight to capture Savannah on October 11, 1777 and today Americans and Polish Americans celebrate his legacy of heroic service and ideals of freedom.

Bill has demonstrated a commitment to his family and to service of his community throughout his lifetime. He served the City of Milwaukee Bureau of Engineers for 31 years. While he no longer works a traditional full time job, he nevertheless remains extremely active in the community. He is on the Board of Directors of SHARE, a self-funding food program that provides food to needy families.

Active with the Boy Scouts of America for over 60 years, Bill has served as a Cubmaster, Scoutmaster, Explorer Scout Advisor and Merit Badge Advisor. In "semi-retirement" he remains very active with the Cub Scouts.

Bill has dedicated 14 years to the Milwaukee Society Polish National Alliance Lodge 2159 as chair of the Christmas Basket Program. Under his leadership, the Lodge collected, packaged and delivered Christmas goodie baskets to those most in need of holiday cheer, and did so without the families ever knowing the identity of their generous benefactors. In addition, he is an active member of American Legion Post 444 and the Knights of Columbus Cardinal Stritch Council 4614.

A wonderful husband and devoted father, Bill and his wife Janet will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary this year. They have three wonderful children and three beautiful grandchildren.

So it is with great pride that I join with the Milwaukee Society Polish National Alliance in celebrating Bill's many achievements and years of community service. Congratulations William Banach, Polish American of the Year for 2001.

THE VISIT OF MINISTER JASWANT SINGH

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2001

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome to the United States India's Minister of External Affairs and Minister of Defense, Jaswant Singh.

As a leader of the world's largest democracy, Minister Singh's visit to America is timely. In light of the tragic events of September 11, it is increasingly important for leaders of the world's great nations to unite to protect the freedoms and liberties of democracy.

On behalf of the United States government and the American people, I would like to thank Minister Singh and the government of India for strongly condemning the terrorist attacks on the United States, and for expressing their unconditional willingness to assist in fighting the new global war against terrorism. Sadly, approximately 250 Indian nationals and persons of Indian origin were killed in the September 11th attacks. To the victims and their families I extend my deepest sympathies.

As has America, India has experienced firsthand the devastating consequences of cross-border terrorism. In the past fifteen years, approximately 53,000 civilians in India have been killed by indiscriminate terrorist acts. The global nature of terrorism and its far-reaching effects require concerted global action. We trust that future cooperation with India's leaders to combat terrorism, not only in South Asia and here in the U.S., but together around the world, will strengthen and will reinforce the important relationship between our countries.

In recent years, the United States and India have moved towards increased cooperation and improved understanding. The trend towards improved bi-lateral relations is evidenced by the US-India Summit Meetings held in New Delhi in March of 2000, and the formation of our Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism early that same year.

In light of the current situation in the U.S. and instability in South Asia, we recognize that open communication, dialogue, and partnership between our democratic nations must be maintained and enhanced as we strive together to achieve common goals and to promote peace in the region. We remain committed to cooperating with the government and people of India on issues of common interest, and we commend India for the role that she has undertaken in working towards greater prosperity and stability in South Asia.

Of particular importance now, however, is the return of Pakistan to a democratic government, and the establishment of peace in the Kashmir region. Such shared goals offer opportunities for collaboration, and indeed, require international collaboration if they are to be realized. Clearly, these issues remain central to South Asia's future stability.

The war on terrorism aside Mr. Speaker, as a member of the India Caucus, I look forward to continuing work to improve America's trade, investment, and military cooperation with India. It is my hope that we will continue the processes begun in past years to construct a valuable working relationship with India, one that is mutually beneficial to both our countries. We recognize India's role as a political,

economic, and military force in regional and world affairs, and thus seek her continued cooperation and partnership.

I extend my sincere wishes to your Minister Singh for a most productive visit to Washington. Your country is an extremely important friend of America's, and I again thank you for the support that your nation has offered to the United States.

RECOGNIZING THE STUDENT BODY OF RIDGEVIEW ELEMENTARY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2001

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Student Body of Ridgeview Elementary for their work and sacrifice in honor of all the people who both survived and who lost their lives in the terrorist attacks on September 11th, 2001, their families and their friends.

These terrorist attacks mark a solemn moment in America's history. American men and women, civilians and soldiers, firefighters and police, mothers and fathers, were slain for a cause so terrible, so heinous, and so despicable that we find it unimaginable and indescribable. United, Americans seek to find meaning and hope in a seemingly hopeless and meaningless act. In the days since these terrible terrorist attacks, America has been shoulder-to-shoulder in a struggle to meet the challenges of a world that is a little less safe, a little scarier, and far less predictable. The efforts of young people like the Student Body of Ridgeview Elementary signify the commitment and concern of Americans everywhere. Our nation's strength does not lie in her military might but rather in the collective compassion of its people.

Since the September 11th terrorist attacks, Student Body of Ridgeview Elementary has raised and contributed more than \$1,000 to provide for the grieving families and rescue workers. The patriotism and persistence of the Student Body of Ridgeview Elementary is a lasting memorial to the thousands of victims who perished in New York, Washington, and Pennsylvania.

Through the days, weeks, and months ahead, all Americans must come together and do what they can to assist the nation's war effort. Whether it is giving blood, sending donations, praying for the thousands of grieving families, or simply saying thanks to the brave men and women who put their lives on the line each and every day so that we may be free, it is important that the American people are vigilant in their efforts to overcome this evil. Though our nation has witnessed unspeakable horror, America's virtues, determination, and faith continues to shine brightly on the world.

I am confident that the United States will seek out those that harbor hatred, terror, and depravity in their hearts; and we will defeat them. This is a war that we must, can, and will win. May God bless the families and children grieving across this great nation and may God bless America.

MEMBERS TAKE TRIP ABROAD REGARDING THE WAR AGAINST TERRORISM

HON. BRIAN D. KERNS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2001

Mr. KERNS. Mr. Speaker, throughout the past three weeks we have seen a tremendous outpouring of patriotism and American pride from coast to coast. After having the opportunity to spend the past few days traveling abroad through Russia, Turkey, and Rome and meeting with leaders from each of these countries—I am proud to return home to the USA with the rest of my colleagues with the understanding that we are not in this fight against terrorism alone. My deepest appreciation goes to Chairman WELDON, and Ranking Member ORTIZ for their leadership in putting together a thorough and productive trip.

Having completed our trip we came to some important conclusions.

First of all, these nations and many others are united like never before. They stand firm with us in our fight against terrorism, and will continue to support the efforts of President Bush and our nation to root out this evil.

Second, justice will be served to Osama Bin Laden and his radical followers. We must recognize, while this may take some time—we will persevere. Osama Bin Laden and his network is only a small part of the cancer of terrorism that is spreading throughout our world. This evil cancer must and will be eradicated.

While meeting with the former King of Afghanistan, Mohammad Zahir Shah, the King told us that he supports the United States in the war against terrorism and that he would back efforts to bring Bin Laden to justice and end the radical Taliban control of Afghanistan and support free democratic elections in his country.

In our conversation with the former Afghan King, and the field commanders for Afghanistan's United Front which is formerly known as the Northern Alliance, I found it fascinating that in fighting this war we must also fight the continuous war against drugs—Afghanistan is currently one of the leading producers of opium, and the majority of Bin Laden and other terrorist activities are funded through this drug trafficking. We must cut off their financial base at the root. That means putting an end to their drug trade.

I believe that our meetings were successful and established the important ground work in this fight against evil. As President Bush has envisioned, we must continue to build effective coalitions to win this war against terrorism.

CALLING ATTENTION TO SPINA BIFIDA AND HONORING THE SPINA BIFIDA ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA FOR HELPING VICTIMS AND FAMILIES OF THIS DISEASE FOR NEARLY 30 YEARS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2001

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to more than 70,000

Americans—and their family members—who are currently affected by spina bifida, a debilitating disease caused when a baby's spine fails to close properly during pregnancy. Additionally, Mr. Speaker, I rise to highlight the good works of the Spina Bifida Association of America, an organization that has helped people with spina bifida and their families for nearly 30 years.

Mr. Speaker, as most Members know, spina bifida, is the most frequently occurring permanently disabling birth defect afflicting 1 out of every 1,000 babies born in this country each year. There are three different forms of spina bifida with the most severe being Myelomeningocele spina bifida, which causes nerve damage and severe disabilities. This severe form of spina bifida is diagnosed in 96 percent of children born with this disease. Between 70 to 90 percent of the children born with spina bifida are at risk of mental retardation when fluid collects around the brain.

With proper medical care, people who suffer from spina bifida can lead full and productive lives. But they must learn how to move around using braces, crutches or wheelchairs, how to learn and how to function independently. They must also be careful to avoid a host of secondary health problems ranging from depression and learning disabilities to skin problems and latex allergies.

Because spina bifida can be detected before birth by using prenatal tests, more than 50 percent of babies diagnosed with spina bifida are aborted—their lives cruelly snuffed out because of their anomalies. Tragically, expectant parents are wrongly pressured to abort their child if spina bifida is detected during pregnancy. It is imperative to get the word out and let expectant parents know that spina bifida is not a death sentence. Those parents who have rejected such pressure have had their lives enriched through the love they share with their child.

The Spina Bifida Association of America works tirelessly to help families meet the challenges and enjoy the rewards of raising their child. As part of its service through 60 chapters in more than 100 communities across the country, the SBAA puts expecting parents in touch with families who have a child with spina bifida. These families answer questions and concerns and help guide expecting parents so that they make life-affirming, family enriching decisions. The SBAA then works to provide lifelong support and assistance for affected children and their families.

Today, about 90 percent of all babies diagnosed with this disease live into adulthood, about 80 percent have normal IQs and about 75 percent participate in sports and other recreational activities. We also know that spina bifida may be preventable if women consume folic acid supplements during their child-bearing years and early stages of pregnancy. The daily amount of folic acid needed is typically found in most multivitamins.

It is heartening to see such promising statistics for people with spina bifida. The spina bifida community and our nation owe a tremendous debt to the SBAA for its work over the past three decades. Much more work still needs to be done, and I am confident this fine organization will lead the effort for decades to come.